

12 August 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: SRP Colleagues

FROM:

STAT

SUBJECT: Points for Discussion in Response to DDCI Conversation  
of 11 August.

1. The Panel will be glad to explore the proposed new function of retrospective evaluations of intelligence products and performance at the Community level, but feels it desirable that the exploration be qualified by two understandings:

a. That in its initial phase the exploration be experimental, including the modus operandi, staffing requirements and possible sources of staff assistance, and whether subsequent phases should be undertaken by the Panel itself or by some alternative arrangement which the Panel would assist in defining; and

b. That this new function not interfere with the Panel's primary task of contributing to the quality and usefulness of ongoing major estimates and assessments by participating at critical stages in the production stream.

2. Can it be confirmed that, while the function has been listed as one of the new tasks for the "Intelligence Community," the Panel would not become part of the I.C. Staff, but would be acting on behalf of the DCI, DDCI, and DD/NFA? In any event, the explicit backing of the DCI and DDCI would be needed to secure the cooperation of all components of the Community.

3. The Panel suggests that one or two specific projects be identified for experimentation during the rest of calendar 1981, with scope and needed investment of time more modest than the project on the [redacted] The recently started project on the [redacted] STAT  
[redacted] might be regarded as the first such case. If so, STAT  
the second should have more of a politico-economic-strategic character,

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rather than being mainly scientific and technical. [Do we have candidates'

4. If the DDCI concurs, it would be helpful to have him reaffirm the primacy of the Panel's established function of review and constructive criticism of major estimates and assessments at the formative and late draft stages. Because of the separation of NIC from NFAC and changes in personnel and procedures, this function needs reinvigoration and regularization. The DDCI might want to make known his concurrence to Messrs. McMahon and Rowen (perhaps in one of their weekly meetings), suggesting to them that they work out procedural details jointly with the Panel itself.

5. For administrative purposes, the Panel could continue to be a part of NFAC (or it could be shifted to the office of the DCI/DDCI). To the extent that time may be available beyond the two principal functions referred to above, the Panel as a group, or its Members as individuals, should be available for ad hoc assignments from DCI, DDCI, D/NFAC, or C/NIC.